

#### REMARKS

The Examiner rejected independent claims 1, 53, 80 and 133 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Alten et al. U.S. Patent 5,781,246 ("Alten"). All of the dependent claims were also rejected, either as being anticipated by Alten, or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alten either alone or in combination with various secondary references.

Claim 1 is directed to a program guide with niche hubs. Through this novel program guidance paradigm, users may access program listings and other interactive television features relating to a category of television programming. Claim 1, as amended, requires that the recited niche hub be "customized for the particular user." More particularly, claim 1 now requires that the recited "at least one other feature" (i.e., a feature other than listings of television programs) must be selected by the particular user to be included in the niche hub. Corresponding method claim 80 has been similarly amended.

Alten does not teach or suggest the niche hub required by claims 1 and 80, either alone or in combination with the other references of record, at least because the cited references do not disclose the claimed feature of

allowing the user to select the "at least one other feature" to be included in the niche hub. Applicants note that in rejecting claims 53 and 133 (which are also generally directed to customizable niche hubs), the Examiner pointed to Alten's channel preference feature. However, Alten's channel preference feature pertains to program listings. In contrast, claims 1 and 80 require that the user be able to select the "at least one other feature" (i.e., a feature unrelated to program listings) to be included in the niche hub. Such a capability is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 80, and all claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

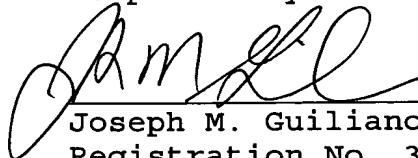
As mentioned above, claims 53 and 133 are also directed generally to customizable niche hubs. Claim 53 has been amended to require that "the niche hub is named by the user and is accessed by selecting an option identified by the name selected by the user." Corresponding method claim 133 has been similarly amended. Neither Alten nor any of the secondary references teach or suggest such a feature. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 53 and 133, and all claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

All of the amendments to the claims are fully justified by the original specification (see, e.g., page 95, line 33 - page 99, line 8, and FIGS. 2 and 65-67).

Applicants expressly reserve the right to demonstrate that the subject matter of the dependent claims is patentable in future submissions if, e.g., this application is not allowed in the next action. Applicants respectfully note, for example, that in presenting the various rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on combinations of references, the Examiner has failed to identify adequate motivation to make the combinations. Instead, the Examiner has simply articulated benefits that would be obtained through the practice of the rejected claims. This is improper.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 53, 80 and 133, and all claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. M. Guiliano', is written over a horizontal line.

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